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Natural Resources Division

Peter Evans

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NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

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SLA

**Peter Evans,
Chair**

From the Chair

Denver is an attractive city in a beautiful setting. The programs and the exhibits at the Annual Conference were stimulating. The mid-June weather was great and almost uplifting (see final paragraph on the tornado!). It was a lively experience for me in more ways than one.

In the first place, I succeeded Marion Johnson as Chair of NRD. My first official act, then will be to thank Marion for her guidance during the past year, her patience, her perseverance, and for a truly fine program in Denver. It was a trying year, what with midyear crises/changes in officers, merger considerations, postal lapses, telephone eccentricities, and the stars, occasionally just plain out of sync. Through it all Marion maintained a steady hand on the helm and a sharp eye on the weather. Congratulations and Thank You!

In the second place, the programs I attended in Denver seem particularly relevant. The speakers were articulate and provocative. The audience was responsive, and the pace was quick. I know this success cannot be attributed solely to the efforts of our Division. There were some other parties involved, but we were there making it happen. We shared an open house three nights running with The Biological Sciences and Environmental Information Divisions. Lots of talk, lots of networking, lots of!

We joined EIN in a well attended roundtable on "Third World Environmental and Resource Issues". Dr. Marta Dosa spoke of the effort to

map the informational sources in Third World countries and to dispell the isolation of environmental workers in these areas. She emphasized the importance of the personal and human aspects in establishing networks in the Third World. We joined a congregation of SLA divisions in a session titled "Energy and the Environment: Where Horizons Meet". The subjects of discussion were technologies for energy efficiency, cleaner burning fuels, digital cartography to map our environment, and waste management and mitigation to clean up the effects of pollution. The Forestry Roundtable sponsored a session on the new Forest Service online catalog, FS-INFO. There are still some bugs in this program, but it shows great promise for workers in natural resources. On Thursday, NRD joined Biological Sciences and Environmental Information in sponsoring the field trip to Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park.

There were business sessions, too. The NRD Executive Board met on Sunday. A joint meeting of the merger committees of NRD and EIN was held on Monday morning, and the annual lunch business meeting of NRD took place on Tuesday. As your new chair, I was privileged to participate in quite a few additional hours of advisory and planning sessions concerning the coming year and the annual conference in New York in 1989. It was educational, and we accomplished some real work.

We rolled around ideas concerning the proposed merger of NRD and EIN, compared notes, discussed pros and cons, finally took a vote to vote by passing the committee resolution: "Resolved: that an official vote be taken by the membership of the Natural Resources Division to effect the merger of the Natural Resources Division and the Environmental Information Division." The vote was unanimous in favor of the resolution. A similar motion was passed by EIN. Consequently, in accordance with Section

Y of the SLA by-laws, an official ballot must now be mailed to the full membership of both divisions within 45 days after the annual meeting. (You should receive your ballot well before July 29th.) Then, if two-thirds of you who return valid ballots approve the merger, Margaret Miller, Chair of EIN, and I shall proceed with the steps necessary to effect the merger. We shall establish a name for the new division, prepare scope notes, write by-laws, seek permission from the Board of SLA, and, if permission is granted, arrange to merge memberships, treasuries, appoint a nominating committee, etc. If you vote in favor of the merger, a new division could be in place in January, 1989. If you oppose the merger, I shall activate a nominating committee for NRD, and we shall continue as we are. So please watch for the ballot AND VOTE. Whichever way the decision goes, it should be a lively year.

Finally, let us get to the high point of the conference, at least for your Chair — the tornado! It was terrific! We don't usually have tornadoes in California, only earthquakes. I had to leave the conference on Wednesday afternoon, so I was privileged to be at the Denver airport when they closed down operations. We watched the funnel approach to within, I would estimate, a quarter of a mile. It lifted and dropped toward the earth as it reached toward the terminal. The colors were fierce, stark white swirling into green and black. The concentration of power was hypnotic. The roiling movement was like that of a giant conber breaking vertically across the sky, an enormous banzai tube — with us at the end! A loudspeaker directed everyone to the lower floor of the airport and warned us to stay away from the windows. It was more fun than any of our business sessions or instructional courses; the fact that the funnel lifted at the last minute, though, and never did hit the airport terminal may have influenced this impression. I did miss my plane connection in Salt Lake City and got home several hours later than expected, but it was a great show. So, like I always say, stay with the SLA. Go where the action is. Next year, the Big Apple!

Peter Evans
Chair

[Editor's Notes: We're glad Peter was able to describe this event for you. Most of us (1000 people?) were huddled in the basement garage under the exhibit area and therefore missed the performance.]

SLA Annual Conference Program

June 13, 1988

Energy and the Environment

Part I

The program "Energy and the Environment: Where Horizons Meet" was co-sponsored by seven SLA divisions. Four speakers gave presentations on a wide range of topics. The first one, which features some amazingly efficient energy technologies, some of which were not even available one year ago, is reported on below. The remaining discussions will be covered in the next issue of Sci-Tech News.

How much electricity do you use? How much do you pay for electricity? Wouldn't you like to use less and pay less? These are questions Amory Lovins addressed in his presentation, "The Negawatt Revolution". Lovins, the director of research for the independent, non-profit Rocky Mountain Institute, presented the audience with facts and figures to show how, through cost-effective, energy-efficient measures, the individual, corporation, or local government can save up to eighty per cent of energy costs for electric lighting.

Energy savings are important, both economically and environmentally. The U.S. spends more money on inefficient energy than on defense. It could save \$200 billion if it were as energy-efficient as Europe and Japan and more than \$3 trillion if all efficiency options were put into use. Since electric utilities and dirty coal plants are major contributors to acid rain and global climate change through carbon dioxide buildup, making energy use efficient enhances environmental quality. The money saved by not having to build more power plants will pay for cleaning up the existing ones. Lovins noted that nuclear power makes the carbon dioxide accumulation worse because it is so expensive that coal plants would not be replaced. Nuclear plants also release more carbon dioxide per unit than coal plants.

There has been a quiet energy revolution in the United States: through conservation a seven-fold net increase in the energy supply has been attained. Electricity uses three to four units of fuel to produce one unit of electrical energy. Utility companies, because of the economic imperatives for energy savings, are implementing old and new methods to aid in electrical savings. Old methods include targeted education, low- and no-interest loans for those using energy-

efficient technologies in building, and rebates for purchasing energy-efficient appliances. New approaches include competitive bidding, marketable peak-load covenants, performance linked hookup fees for new buildings, and targeted mass retro-fits.

If this sounds interesting to you, look into replacing your incandescent bulbs with any of the new fluorescent lamps — you use eleven watts instead of fifty watts of energy, and the lamps last sixteen times as long. Get more information on electric efficiency by writing to the Rocky Mountain Institute at

1739 Snowmass Creek Road
P.O. Drawer 248
Snowmass, CO 81654-9199

Carla Heister
Illinois Natural History Survey

SLA Annual Conference Program

June 14, 1988

U.S. Forest Service FS INFO Project

This program sponsored by the NRD Forestry-/Forest Products Roundtable was moderated by Marion Johnson (Forintek Canada, Vancouver). Speakers were Ginger Rutherford (INFO SOUTH, University of Georgia, Athens) and Carol Ayer (Intermountain Research Station, Ogden, Utah).

FS INFO (Forest Service Information Network — Forestry Online) is a network of U.S. Forest Service information units. It comprises a central unit at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland, and service centers located throughout the United States.

The central unit (FS INFO-CENTRAL) provides central cataloging and processing and coordinates the database and network activities. It is administered by the Information System Staff in the Forest Service's Washington office.

The service centers, which include CALFORNET, PACFORNET, WESTFORNET, and SOUTHFORNET, as well as other Forest Service agencies, provide library and information services to the staff in these agencies. They also identify and submit materials for inclusion in the main database. The service centers are administered by the regions and stations they serve.

FS INFO was set up in 1985 to record and provide access to all U.S. Forest Service authored

or produced publications. This objective has been expanded to include forestry related literature from many sources; most of these additional citations are derived from the regularly produced accessions lists of the various Forest Service information centers.

The database currently contains some 45,000 records. It indexes to a standard format (MARC) and it derives its subject terms from the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau (CAB) Thesaurus. It continually submits changes and additions to CAB for inclusion in upcoming editions. The database is available to U.S. Forest Service employees through its Data General (DG) system via dial access. There is a user-friendly guide with easy to follow instructions.

FS INFO also offers a fiche copy of its database to selected libraries and information centers which will submit their organizations' documents for inclusion in FS INFO. Many of those present expressed an interest in acquiring this service.

A demonstration and a hands-on trial of FS INFO followed the slide and text presentation.

Marjorie Wickens
Forintek Canada, Ottawa

SLA Annual Conference Program

June 13, 1988

Third World Environmental and Resource Issues

Approximately 100 people attended the roundtable moderated by Fred Stoss and sponsored jointly by the Environmental Information and Natural Resources Divisions. Dr. Marta Dosa, Professor of Information Studies, Syracuse University, spoke for about twenty minutes and laid the groundwork for later informal (and lively) audience questions and participation.

Dr. Dosa discussed the role of information ("information is the information that makes a difference") in economic development and touched on significant initiatives which have highlighted information: the Foreign Assistance Act, which calls for technical assistance at the grass roots level; the New World Economic Order of the United Nations; the McBride Commission, which led to the "New World Information Order"; and GATT, the trade agreement which currently negotiates information transfers. She mentioned the report from the World Council on Environment and Development (*Our*

Common Future) which acknowledges that environmental issues cannot be considered in isolation but must be placed in the context of economics and politics. She warned that information has been politicized as an economic commodity.

Dr. Dosa mentioned the three international library organizations that currently exist: IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations), FID (International Federation for Documentation), and ICA (International Council on Archives). She urged us to reflect on what SLA and we as individuals can do to forge links with Third World information workers. Examples of projects include gift and exchange distribution programs for surplus materials from our collections, directories*, and the USIA/ALA Fellowship Program administered by Bob Doyle, ALA. She urged us to build networks and perhaps start a newsletter.

It is anticipated that an ALA Third World Caucus may be formed under the new caucus guidelines adopted by the SLA Board of Directors. Fred Stoss will discuss the possibility of future collaborative efforts with the International Affairs Roundtable of the Social Sciences Division.

Barbara Rodes
Conservation Foundation/WWF

* Two new directories are the *International Directory of Forestry and Forest Products Libraries*, compiled by Peter Evans and Mark Arizmendi of Berkeley (General Technical Report PSW-97, available free from the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, P.O. Box 245, Berkeley, CA 94701, Tel. 415-486-3113 while current supply lasts, available from NTIS thereafter) and *Natural Resources Directory: Latin America and the Caribbean* (\$15.00 includes handling; order from Mark Hathaway, Partners of the Americas, 1424 K St., NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005).

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